

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. In a system for broadcasting video programs to a user including
2 a display, a system for providing program information to the user comprising:
3 an input device for use in generating an input signal representing a
4 request for summary information concerning a video program, the program having
5 a beginning and the input signal being generated at a time during a broadcast of the
6 program; and
7 a controller for receiving the input signal and, in response thereto,
8 providing via the display a summary of the program from the program beginning to
9 the input signal time.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is further for
2 transmitting a control signal to a remote site in response to receipt of the input
3 signal, and for receiving the summary in response to transmission of the control
4 signal.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the summary from the remote site.

1 4. The system of claim 2 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the summary from a site other than the remote site.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the summary comprises video
2 content.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the summary comprises audio
2 content.

1 7. The system of claim 5 wherein the video content is provided on
2 a portion of the display separate from a portion of the display used to provide the
3 program.

1 8. The system of claim 5 wherein the video content comprises text.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the summary comprises text
2 embedded in the program, the text to be provided by the controller via the display
3 only after receipt of the input signal by the controller.

1 10. The system of claim 1 further comprising a storage medium for
2 use in storing the summary.

1 11. In a system for broadcasting video programs to a user including
2 a display, a method for providing program information to the user comprising:
3 providing a controller for receiving an input signal representing a
4 request for summary information concerning a video program, the program having
5 a beginning and the input signal being generated at a time during a broadcast of the
6 program, and for providing via the display a summary of the program from the
7 program beginning to the input signal time in response to receipt of the input signal.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising providing an input
2 device for use in generating the input signal.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the controller is further for
2 transmitting a control signal to a remote site in response to receipt of the input
3 signal, and for receiving the summary in response to transmission of the control
4 signal.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the summary from the remote site.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the summary from a site other than the remote site.

1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein the summary comprises video
2 content.

1 17. The method of claim 11 wherein the summary comprises audio
2 content.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the video content is provided
2 on a portion of the display separate from a portion of the display used to provide the
3 program.

1 19. The method of claim 16 wherein the video content comprises
2 text.

1 20. The method of claim 11 wherein the summary comprises text
2 embedded in the program, the text to be provided by the controller via the display
3 only after receipt of the input signal by the controller.

1 21. The method of claim 11 further comprising providing a storage
2 medium for use in storing the summary.

1 22. In a system for broadcasting video programs to a user including
2 a display, a system for providing a copy of at least a portion of the program to the
3 user comprising:

4 a controller for monitoring a period of time during which the display
5 is tuned to a broadcast of a video program, the period starting during the broadcast
6 of the program, and for use in providing via the display a copy of at least a portion
7 of the program when the period exceeds a predetermined threshold time; and

8 a storage medium for use in storing the copy of at least a portion of
9 the program.

1 23. The system of claim 22 wherein the controller is further for
2 communicating with a remote site to request a copy of at least a portion of the
3 program when the period exceeds the predetermined threshold time, and for
4 receiving the copy of at least a portion of the program.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from the remote site.

1 25. The system of claim 23 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from a site other than the
3 remote site.

1 26. The system of claim 23 wherein the copy of at least a portion of
2 the program comprises a complete copy of the program.

1 27. The system of claim 23 further comprising an input device,
2 wherein the input device is for use in generating a request for display of, and the
3 controller is further for providing via the display, at least a portion of the copy of
4 at least a portion of the program during the broadcast of the program.

1 28. The system of claim 23 further comprising an input device,
2 wherein the controller is further for requesting, and the input device is for use in
3 generating, an indication whether to continue receiving the copy of at least a portion
4 of the program when the display is tuned to a broadcast of another video program
5 before receipt of the copy of at least a portion of the program has been completed.

1 29. The system of claim 22 further comprising an input device,
2 wherein the controller is further for requesting, and the input device is for use in
3 generating, an indication whether a copy of at least a portion of the program is
4 desired when the period exceeds a predetermined threshold time, and the controller
5 is further for communicating with a remote site to request a copy of at least a
6 portion of the program upon a receipt of an indication that a copy of at least a
7 portion of the program is desired.

1 30. The system of claim 29 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from the remote site.

1 31. The system of claim 29 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from a site other than the
3 remote site.

1 32. The system of claim 29 wherein the copy of at least a portion of
2 the program comprises a complete copy of the program.

1 33. The system of claim 29 wherein the input device is further for
2 use in generating a request for display of, and the controller is further for providing
3 via the display, at least a portion of the copy of at least a portion of the program
4 during the broadcast of the program.

1 34. The system of claim 29 wherein the controller is further for
2 requesting, and the input device is further for use in generating, an indication
3 whether to continue receiving the copy of at least a portion of the program when the
4 display is tuned to a broadcast of another video program before receipt of the copy
5 of at least a portion of the program has been completed.

1 35. In a system for broadcasting video programs to a user including
2 a display, a method for providing a copy of at least a portion of the program to the
3 user comprising:

4 providing a controller for monitoring a period of time during which
5 the display is tuned to a broadcast of a video program, the period starting during the
6 broadcast of the program, and for use in providing via the display a copy of at least
7 a portion of the program when the period exceeds a predetermined threshold time.

1 36. The method of claim 35 further comprising providing a storage
2 medium for use in storing the copy of at least a portion of the program.

1 37. The method of claim 35 wherein the controller is further for
2 communicating with a remote site to request a copy of at least a portion of the
3 program when the period exceeds the predetermined threshold time, and for
4 receiving the copy of at least a portion of the program.

1 38. The method of claim 37 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from the remote site.

1 39. The method of claim 37 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from a site other than the
3 remote site.

1 40. The method of claim 37 wherein the copy of at least a portion
2 of the program comprises a complete copy of the program.

1 41. The method of claim 37 further comprising providing an input
2 device, wherein the input device is for use in generating a request for display of,
3 and the controller is further for providing via the display, at least a portion of the
4 copy of at least a portion of the program during the broadcast of the program.

1 42. The method of claim 37 further comprising providing an input
2 device, wherein the controller is further for requesting, and the input device is for
3 use in generating, an indication whether to continue receiving the copy of at least
4 a portion of the program when the display is tuned to a broadcast of another video
5 program before receipt of the copy of at least a portion of the program has been
6 completed.

1 43. The method of claim 35 further comprising providing an input
2 device, wherein the controller is further for requesting, and the input device is for
3 use in generating, an indication whether a copy of at least a portion of the program
4 is desired when the period exceeds a predetermined threshold time, and the
5 controller is further for communicating with a remote site to request a copy of at
6 least a portion of the program upon a receipt of an indication that a copy of at least
7 a portion of the program is desired.

1 44. The method of claim 43 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from the remote site.

1 45. The method of claim 43 wherein the controller is operative to
2 receive the copy of at least the portion of the program from a site other than the
3 remote site.

1 46. The method of claim 43 wherein the copy of at least a portion
2 of the program comprises a complete copy of the program.

1 47. The method of claim 43 wherein the input device is further for
2 use in generating a request for display of, and the controller is further for providing
3 via the display, at least a portion of the copy of at least a portion of the program
4 during the broadcast of the program.

1 48. The method of claim 43 wherein the controller is further for
2 requesting, and the input device is further for use in generating, an indication
3 whether to continue receiving the copy of at least a portion of the program when the
4 display is tuned to a broadcast of another video program before receipt of the copy
5 of at least a portion of the program has been completed.